08/24/2012

NITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

# NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

94140 759D Merchant & Gould - Cox PO Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402

09/396 429

EXAMINER SALTARELLI, DOMINIC D

ART UNIT DADED NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2012

60136 0095USD2

wasw number of

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO IOHN'S HENDRICKS

TITLE OF INVENTION: TELEVISION TERMINAL MODEM

09/15/1999

nonprovisional	NO	\$1740	80	\$0	\$1740	11/26/2012
APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

#### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B -Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 or Fax (571)-273-2885

PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE

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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address and indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or by indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for

maintenance fee notification Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission. 94140 7590 08/24/2012 Certificate of Mailing or Transmission Merchant & Gould - Cox I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below. PO Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402

(Depositor's name (Signature (Dat

TOTAL FEE(S) DUE

\$1740

DATE DUE

11/26/2012

(enclose an extra copy of this form).

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO 09/396 429 09/15/1999 IOHN'S HENDRICKS 60136 0095USD2 7434

PUBLICATION FEE DUE

SO

TITLE OF INVENTION: TELEVISION TERMINAL MODEM

SMALL ENTITY

NO

ISSUE FEE DUE

\$1740

APPLN, TYPE

nonprovisional

☐ Issue Fee

Advance Order - # of Copies

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS						
SALTARELLI, DOMINIC D	2421	725-132000						
I. Change of correspondence address or indicatio CFR 1.863.  Change of correspondence address (or Cha Address form PTO/8B/122) attached.  Tee Address "Indication (or "Fee Address PTO/8B/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attach Number is required.	or agents OR, alternativ (2) the name of a single registered attorney or a	3 registered patent attorneys rely, e firm (having as a member a gent) and the names of up to meys or agents. If no name is	1					
3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)								
PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignce is identified below, no assignce data will appear on the patent. If an assignce is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.								
(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE		(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)						
Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): 🔲 Individual 🔲 Corporation or other private group emity								
4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:	41	. Payment of Fee(s): (Plea	se first reapply any previously	y paid issue fee shown above)				

A check is enclosed.

Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

overpayment, to Deposit Account Number

Authorized Signature Date Typed or printed name Registration No. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time your require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer. U.S. Patert and Trademark Officer. U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 2231-450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 2231-450.

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above) a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any

b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office address COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/396,429 09/15/1999 JOHN S. HENDRICKS		60136.0095USD2	7434	
94140 75	90 08/24/2012	EXAMINER		
Merchant & Gou	ld - Cox	SALTARELLI, DOMINIC D		
PO Box 2903			0 - 0000 A W D 40 FD	
Minneapolis, MN :	55402	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	

2421 DATE MAILED: 08/24/2012

# Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

## Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2): (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

- The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom
  of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of
  records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these
  records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement necotiations.
- 3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
- 4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
- 5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
- A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
- 7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his-fher designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2004 and 2006. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals
- 8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
- A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

### Application No. Applicant(s) 09/396.429 HENDRICKS ET AL Notice of Allowability Examiner Art Unit DOMINIC D. SALTABELLI. 2421 -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTQL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 7/31/12. 2. An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action. 3. The allowed claim(s) is/are 66-79 and 81-85. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). b) Some\* c) None of the: Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). \* Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted. (a) Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) I including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d). 7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. Attachment(s) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Interview Summary (PTO-413). Paper No./Mail Date 3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08). 7. X Examiner's Amendment/Comment Paper No./Mail Date 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit 8. X Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance of Biological Material Other \_\_\_\_\_\_.

/DOMINIC D SALTARELLI/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2421

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Application/Control Number: 09/396,429

Art Unit: 2421

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

 An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 66. A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal for use with a television program delivery system with menu selection of programs, the set top terminal having a microprocessor and microprocessor instructions for prompting generation of menus, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an upgrade interface configured for insertion within an expansion card interface slot of a set top terminal for providing access to a set top terminal microprocessor bus coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor and providing data to the set top terminal microprocessor via the set top terminal microprocessor bus;

a communications port to provide communication between the hardware upgrade and a headend; and

a hardware upgrade microprocessor, coupled to the upgrade interface, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured for communicating directly with the set top terminal microprocessor through the set top terminal microprocessor bus via the upgrade interface;

wherein the hardware upgrade microprocessor provides enhanced functions to the set top terminal microprocessor through communication with the set top terminal

Art Unit: 2421

microprocessor using the upgrade interface coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor bus according to receive interactive input received from a subscriber, generate responses based on the received interactive input and for provide the generated responses to the microprocessor of the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured to communicate directly with a headend via the communications port to receive upgrade data to provide the enhanced functions to the set top microprocessor in response to the interactive input received form from the subscriber.

Claim 73. A set top terminal for use with a television program delivery system with menu selection of programs, the set top terminal having a microprocessor and microprocessor instructions for prompting generation of menus and comprising:

- a receiver adapted to receive programs; and
- a first hardware upgrade comprising:

a communications port to provide communication between the hardware upgrade and a headend:

an upgrade interface configured for insertion within an expansion card interface slot of a set top terminal for providing access to a set top terminal microprocessor bus coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor and providing data to the set top terminal microprocessor via the set top terminal microprocessor bus; and

a hardware upgrade microprocessor, coupled to the upgrade interface, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured for communicating directly with the set

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top terminal microprocessor through the set top terminal microprocessor bus via the upgrade interface;

wherein the hardware upgrade microprocessor provides enhanced functions to the set top terminal microprocessor through communication with the set top terminal microprocessor using the upgrade interface coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor bus according to interactive input received from a subscriber, generate responses based on the received interactive input and fer provide the generated responses to the microprocessor of the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured to communicate directly with a headend via the communications port to receive upgrade data to provide the enhanced functions to the set top microprocessor in response to the interactive input received form from the subscriber.

# Claim 83. A system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals; and

a set top terminal having a microprocessor and microprocessor instructions for prompting generation of menus and comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive at least some of the television program signals; and a hardware upgrade comprising:

a hardware communications port to provide communication between the hardware upgrade and a headend;

Art Unit: 2421

an upgrade interface configured for insertion within an expansion card interface slot of a set top terminal for providing access to a set top terminal microprocessor bus coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor and providing data to the set top terminal microprocessor via the set top terminal microprocessor bus; and

a hardware upgrade microprocessor, coupled to the upgrade interface, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured for communicating directly with the set top terminal microprocessor through the set top terminal microprocessor bus via the upgrade interface;

wherein the hardware upgrade microprocessor provides enhanced functions to the set top terminal microprocessor through communication with the set top terminal microprocessor using the upgrade interface coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor bus according to interactive input received from a subscriber, generate responses based on the received interactive input and fer provide the generated responses to the microprocessor of the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured to communicate directly with a headend via the hardware communications port to receive upgrade data to provide the enhanced functions to the set top microprocessor in response to the interactive input received form from the subscriber.

Claim 85. A method for delivering television programs through a television program delivery system with menu selection of programs, comprising:

receiving subscriber input at a hardware upgrade card from a set top terminal:

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providing a communications port to provide communication between the hardware upgrade and a headend;

providing an upgrade interface to the hardware upgrade card, the upgrade interface being configured for insertion within an expansion card interface slot of the set top terminal for providing access to a set top terminal microprocessor bus coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor and providing data to the set top terminal microprocessor via the set top terminal microprocessor bus; and

providing a hardware upgrade microprocessor, coupled to the upgrade interface, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured for communicating directly with the set top terminal microprocessor bus via the upgrade interface,

wherein the hardware upgrade microprocessor provides enhanced functions to the set top terminal microprocessor through communication with the set top terminal microprocessor using the upgrade interface coupled to the set top terminal microprocessor bus according to interactive input received from a subscriber, generate responses based on the received interactive input and fer provide the generated responses to the microprocessor of the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade microprocessor configured to communicate directly with a headend via the communications port to receive upgrade data to provide the enhanced functions to the set top microprocessor in response to the interactive input received form from the subscriber.

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art antedating applicant's effective filing date of December 9, 1992 has been exhausted, as there is no prior art which the examiner is aware of that teaches or render obvious the claimed limitations of a hardware upgrade card for set top terminal possessing both a communications port for direct communication with a head end and the processing of user input for enhanced functions as currently claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOMINIC D. SALTARELLI whose telephone number is (571)272-7302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2421

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DOMINIC D SALTARELLI/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2421